GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:128
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017
Installation of Handpumps
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hand pumps installed in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether a large number of hand pumps have been installed without proper sanction and checks, especially in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has recommended that shallow aquifers should not be targeted due to the possible presence of microbial organisms and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has considered any proposal to change the design of
the hand pumps to incorporate a suitable filter to remove microbes and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 128 due for answer on 09.03.2017

(a) The number of hand pumps installed in the States during each of the last three years and the current year are at Annexure-I.

(b) No Madam . Although under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) there is no specific guidelines for installation of Hand pumps, the hand pumps are installed as per the decisions taken during State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC). However, the hand pumps are installed with proper sanction and checks.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) & (e) Shallow aquifers are prone to bacteriological contamination due to local unhygienic conditions. In 60 high priority districts identified by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in order to prevent Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), earmarked funds are allocated and given to 5 States viz., Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal for conversion of public shallow hand pumps to India Mark-II / Mark-III hand pumps which draw water from a depth of about 24 meters, where chances of bacteriological contamination is minimum. External attachments as filters to hand pumps like bleaching powder / chlorination activated alumina, etc. can also be made to provide safe drinking water. However, proper maintenance of hand pumps and external filter attachments is required so as to ensure providing clean drinking water.